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EXAMINER

PROCTOR, JASON SCOTT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2123

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/811,239	Applicant(s) HSU ET AL.	
	Examiner Jason Proctor	Art Unit 2123	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-24 were rejected in office action of 26 June 2006. Applicants' response of 26 September 2006 has amended claims 13-24. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-24 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

The previous rejections of claims 13-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 have been withdrawn in response to the amendments to those claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,408,001 to Chuah et al. (hereafter referred to as Chuah).

Regarding claim 1, Chuah discloses:

A method for circuit emulation over a multi-packet label switching (MPLS) network, comprising:

Receiving a time division multiplexed data stream at an ingress end [*“Although the present invention is illustrated and described herein as an embodiment utilized for Internet telephony transport, the embodiment is merely illustrative and should not be construed as being so limited. The present invention is equally applicable for any packet type, whether voice, data, or multimedia, which is switched from a source address to a destination address by using an appended label.”* (column 4, lines 18-24)];

Dividing said data stream into a set of fixed sized packets [*“A plurality of variant schemes may be utilized, but for the purposes of analysis, assume that voice packets for each call are encoded into ten byte packets and that a unique three byte header is appended to each voice packet to identify the voice connection.”* (column 6, lines 51-60)];

Adding a service header to each of said packets [*“ITS-4 creates an IP-inIP tunnel packet 520 by encapsulating the IP packet 510 with an ITS-1 DIP 522 and an ITS-4 SIP 524. ITS-4 then routes packet 520 to LSR-4.”* (column 7, lines 47-50)];

Adding an additional header on top of said service header in accordance with MPLS protocols [*“LSR-4 appends MPLS label 1 532 to create labeled IP packet 530... LSR-7 removes MPLS label 1 532 and appends MPLS label 2 542 to create labeled packet 540.”* (column 6, lines 50-55)];

Removing said additional header after each packet has been processed by said MPLS network [*“LSR-1 removes MPLS label 2 542 and routes packet 520 to ITS-1.”* (column 6, lines 58-59)]; and

Using said service header to recover said data stream at an egress end [*“ITS-1 removes the ITS-1 DIP 522 and ITS-4 SIP 524 to recreate the original IP packet 510 and routes IP packet 510 to D-1.”* (column 6, lines 59-61)].

In response, Applicants argue primarily that:

Thus, the Chuah, et al. patent fails to disclose a capability to receive a time division multiplexed stream and divide the stream into fixed sized packets as provided by the claimed invention.

The Examiner respectfully traverses this argument as follows.

Chuah discloses receiving a time division multiplexed stream [*“However, it would be understood to those skilled in the art that the present invention is also applicable to other packetized data flows conveyed over an MPLS network; including but not limited to MPEG video, UMTS, multi-media conferencing, or any other stream of data conveyed utilizing packet protocols. Voice packets are then multiplexed to form IP packets at the source ITS and conveyed over the MPLS network to a destination ITS.”* (column 7, lines 36-50)]. Applicants’ argument appears to imply that the “source ITS” is incapable of receiving a TDM stream, however any such argument would be contrary to the well-known function of an Internet Telephony Server, especially one “positioned at the periphery of the IP network” (column 4, line 30 – column 5, line 4).

Chuah discloses dividing the stream into fixed sized packets [*“A plurality of variant schemes may be utilized, but for the purposes of analysis, assume that voice packets for each call are encoded into ten byte packets and that a unique three byte header is appended to each voice packet to identify the voice connection.”* (column 6, lines 51-60)].

Applicants’ arguments have been fully considered but have been found unpersuasive.

Regarding claim 13, which recites the limitations of claim 1 as a “computer program product,” Chuah discloses that the invention described above may take the form of a computer program product [“*software in any form, including, therefore, firmware, microcode or the like, combined with appropriate circuitry for executing that software to perform the function*” (column 18, lines 5-7)] and therefore anticipates claim 13.

In response, Applicants submit arguments that correspond to the arguments addressed above. These arguments have been fully considered but have been found unpersuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was

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commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

2. Claims 2-12 and 14-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of “MPLS: The Magic Behind the Myths” by Grenville Armitage (hereafter referred to as Armitage; cited previously and made of record on PTO-892 dated 30 December 2005).

Regarding claims 2 and 14, Chuah discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the recited steps of monitoring the data stream and attaching an alarm bit.

Armitage teaches monitoring said data stream and attaching an alarm bit in a service header of a subsequent packet if a break in said data stream is detected (pg. 127, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, paragraphs 3 and 4, regarding the “S” bit).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants’ invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*“It is shown that MPLS adds the*

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ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels” between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.” (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

Claim 14 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a “computer program product” as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claims 3 and 15, discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the recited step of using a structure pointer.

Armitage teaches the step of using a structure pointer in said service header to indicate whether a header byte a synchronous payload envelope is present within a packet, said structure pointer indicating the location of said header byte in said packet (pg. 127, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, paragraph 4 “SONET/SDH”).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants’ invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [“*It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels”*”

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between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.” (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

Claim 15 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a “computer program product” as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claims 4 and 16, Armitage further teaches the step of: reserving a pointer value indicating that said header byte is not present within said packet (pg. 128, left column, 4th paragraph, lines 5-9).

Claim 16 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a “computer program product” as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claims 5 and 17, Chuah discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the recited step of recording a stuffing time difference and implement said stuffing time difference.

Armitage teaches the steps of recording a stuffing time difference in a service header at said ingress end (pg. 127, left column, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, 3rd paragraph); and implementing said stuffing time difference at said egress end (pg. 127, left column, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, 3rd paragraph).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants' invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*"It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed "tunnels" between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services."* (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

Claim 17 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a "computer program product" as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claim 6, Chuah discloses the limitations of claim 1.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the steps explicitly recited by claim 6.

Armitage teaches the steps (a) storing a first set of frames into a data buffer; (b) calculating a first data average of said first set of frames in said data buffer to obtain threshold value (pg. 125, right column, 5th paragraph, "provisioning"); storing a next set of frames into said data buffer; (c) calculating a next data average of said next set of frames in said data buffer; (d) comparing said next data average to said threshold (pg. 125, right column, 5th paragraph, "provisioning") value; (e) said next data average is greater than said threshold value: generating a negative justification indicator (pg. 127, "Label-Based Forwarding" section, 2nd paragraph, "TTL reaches 0 "); and sending one more byte at said egress end (pg. 128, right column, "egress

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from the LSP tunnel, the top-level label is popped and the LSR then switches the remaining MPLS frame based on the new top label”); (f) if said next data average is less than said threshold value: generating a positive justification indicator (pg. 127, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, 2nd paragraph, “the TTL is set to a finite value at the beginning of the LSP, decremented by one at every label switch”); and sending one less byte at said egress end; and (h) repeating said steps (c)-(g) (rejected based continuation, see *In re Dilnot*, 319 F.2d 188, 138 USPQ 248 (CCPA 1963)).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants’ invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [“*It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels” between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.*” (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

Regarding claims 7 and 19, Chuah discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the steps explicitly recited by claim 7.

Armitage teaches the steps of: checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets (pg.129, left column, 1st paragraph); locating at least one header byte in said set of packets (integral to loading the various components to the frame; pg.127, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, 1st and 2nd paragraphs); measuring all bytes between two header bytes (integral to loading the various components to the frame; pg.127, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, 1st and 2nd paragraphs); and pushing said set of packets into a frame (pg. 128, 4th paragraph, line 7).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants’ invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*“It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels” between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.”* (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Claim 19 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a “computer program product” as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claims 8 and 20, Chuah discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the steps of checking a sequence counter and inserting a dummy packet.

Armitage teaches the steps checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine packets are present sequentially (pg.129, left column, 1st paragraph); and inserting a dummy packet a packet is missing said set of packets (packing the cell; pg. 128, 4th paragraph, line 7)..

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants' invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*"It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed "tunnels" between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services."* (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Claim 20 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a "computer program product" as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claims 9 and 21, Armitage further discloses steps of: receiving an out of sequence packet (pg. 128, left and right columns, last and first paragraphs, respectively); and

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discarding said out of sequence packet (pg.127, "Label-Based Forwarding" 3rd paragraph "detection and discard of looping MPLS").

Claim 21 is rejected for similar rationale in the context of a "computer program product" as set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claim 10, Chuah discloses the limitations of claim 1.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the steps of checking a sequence counter, terminating a current connection, discarding a set of packets, and establishing a new connection.

Armitage teaches the steps of: checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine packets are present sequentially (pg.129, left column, 1st paragraph; inherent to the SONET process); terminating a current connection if multiple packets are missing in said set of packets(inherent to the SONET process); discarding said set of packets (inherent to the SONET process); and establishing a new connection to begin receiving packets (pg. 128, left column, lines 1-19) .

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants' invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*"It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed "tunnels"*

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between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.” (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Regarding claim 11, Chuah discloses the limitations of claim 1.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the steps of checking a sequence counter and establishing an in-frame condition.

Armitage teaches steps of: checking a sequence counter said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially (pg.129, left column, 1st paragraph); and establishing an in-frame condition after said set packets are received in sequence (pg. 127, right column, 3rd paragraph).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants' invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*“It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels” between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.” (Armitage, abstract)].*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

Regarding claim 12, Armitage further teaches the steps of: determining whether said in-frame condition is valid (pg.127, "Label-Based Forwarding" section, 3rd paragraph, lines 5-6 "scheduling disciplines"); and terminating a current connection if said in-frame condition is not valid (pg.127, "Label-Based Forwarding" section, 3rd paragraph, lines 5-6 "scheduling disciplines").

Regarding claim 18, Chuah discloses the limitations of claim 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the components explicitly recited by claim 18.

Armitage teaches (a) logic code for storing a first set of frames into a data buffer; (b) logic code for calculating a first data average of said first set of frames said data buffer to obtain a threshold value (pg. 125, right column, 5th paragraph, "provisioning"); logic code for storing a next set of frames into said data buffer; (d) logic code for calculating a next data average of said next set of frames in said data buffer; logic code for comparing said next data average to said threshold value (pg. 125, right column, 5th paragraph, "provisioning"); said next data average is greater than said threshold value (pg. 125, right column, 5th paragraph, "provisioning"); logic code for generating a negative justification indicator (pg. 127, "Label-Based Forwarding" section, 2nd paragraph, "TTL reaches 0 "); and logic code for sending one more byte at said egress end (pg. 128, right column, "egress from the LSP tunnel, the top-level label is popped and the LSR then switches the remaining MPLS frame based on the new top label"); (g) said

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next data average is less than said threshold value (pg. 125, right column, 5th paragraph, “provisioning”); logic code for generating a positive justification indicator (pg. 127, “Label-Based Forwarding” section, 2nd paragraph, “the TTL is set to a finite value at the beginning of the LSP, decremented by one at every label switch”); and (2) logic code for sending one less byte at said egress end (pg. 128, right column, 2nd paragraph “at the egress from the LSP tunnel, the top-level is popped” or removed); and (h) logic code for repeating said (c)-(g) (rejected based continuation, see *In re Dilnot*, 319 F.2d 188, 138 USPQ 248 (CCPA 1963)).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants’ invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*“It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels” between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.”* (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

Regarding claim 22, Chuah discloses the limitations of claim 13.

Chuah does not expressly disclose the components explicitly recited by claim 22.

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Armitage teaches checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine packets are present sequentially (pg.129, left column, 1st paragraph; inherent to the SONET process); establishing an in-frame condition after said set packets are received in sequence (pg. 128, right column, 2nd paragraph “at the egress level”); terminating a current connection if multiple packets are missing in said set of packets(inherent to the SONET process); discarding said set of packets (inherent to the SONET process); and establishing a new connection to begin receiving packets (pg. 128, left column, lines 1-19).

Armitage and Chuah are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor, that of MPLS networks.

Therefore, at the time of Applicants’ invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the MPLS routing features described by Armitage in the MPLS network described by Chuah. The motivation for doing so would have been to fully realize the advantages of MPLS networks taught by Armitage [*“It is shown that MPLS adds the ability to forward packets over arbitrary non-shortest paths, and emulate high-speed “tunnels” between IP-only domains – capabilities critical to service providers who need to better manage resources around their backbones, or who are planning IP VPN services.”* (Armitage, abstract)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Armitage with Chuah to obtain the invention as specified in claim 22.

Regarding claim 23, Armitage further teaches steps of: checking a sequence counter said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present

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sequentially (pg.129, left column, 1st paragraph); and establishing an in-frame condition after said set packets are received in sequence (pg. 127, right column, 3rd paragraph).

Regarding claim 24, Armitage further teaches the steps of: determining whether said in-frame condition is valid (pg.127, "Label-Based Forwarding" section, 3rd paragraph, lines 5-6 "scheduling disciplines"); and terminating a current connection if said in-frame condition is not valid (pg.127, "Label-Based Forwarding" section, 3rd paragraph, lines 5-6 "scheduling disciplines").

In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants refer to independent claim 1 and 13. Those arguments have been addressed above and found unpersuasive.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

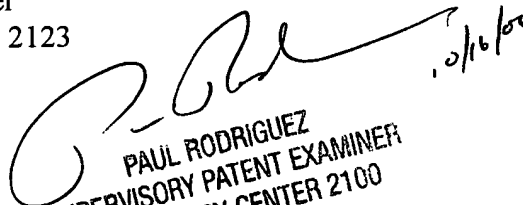
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Proctor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3713. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am-4:30 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Rodriguez can be reached at (571) 272-3753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason Proctor
Examiner
Art Unit 2123

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